in collaboration with the Technical Education Department of Ministry of Hurman Resource Development and Indian Institutes of Technology. It will beam 16 hours of programmes per day, seven days a week. This Channel is designed to carry video courses in different disciplines generated at various IITs on weekdays and special interest programmes on Sundays. For the time being eight complete courses are being run in parallel, contributed by IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur and IIT Madras and are repeated in the same sequence without a break.

Installation of VIPT in Himachal Pradesh

573. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 673 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th May, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had sanctioned three Very Low Power Transmitters for Himachal Pradesh during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that these VLPTs have not been installed, so far, and by when these are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) VLPT projects at Jatingari and Chirgaon are expected to be completed by the end of March, 2003. Kaja is presently show bound and installation of the transmitter would be taken up after the weather conditions improve. The project at Kaja is expected to be completed by end of 2003.

Print of old films

574. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to lack of proper space for preservation, there are not enough prints of old films;

(b) whether some of the old films were lost in haze of partition, other were destroyed with passage of time;

(c) whether some of the old films were located in South africa and Thailand;

(d) whether in West, Disney, MGM took care, in Russia, the State was the producer and in Japan, four or five companies took care of their history; and

(e) whether Government are considering to have proper buildings with latest technologies for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) NFAI was set up in February, 1964 i.e., after over 50 years of filmmaking history in the country, by which time a number of films of the early period may have been lost forever, it is engaged in the task of preserving Indian Cinematic Heritage at par with various film archives of other countries and is also a member of FIAF (International Federation of Film Archives). NFAI has informed that no documented research is available on the loss of old prints, if any, during partition or over the passage of time, nor is there any information available on whether some of the old films were located in South Africa and Thailand. Expansion of NFAI's vault space is envisaged in the 10th Plan through construction of additional storage facility.

Free to air satellite channels

575. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of free to air satellite channels operating in the country today;

(b) the number of such channels which could be accommodated inthe basic tier as defined in the Cable Network Access Act;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government will have a hand in deciding as to which free to air channels will be put in the basic tier; and

(d) what will happen to those free to air channels who will not be accommodated in the basic tier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The number of free to air channels available to households varies from city to city and from area to area within cities.